

LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting with Harrison Murphy, Ventex, Inc.

DATE OF MEETING: August 14, 2002

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: December 31, 2002

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Allyson Tenney, Engineering Sciences 

LOCATION: Ventex, Inc.
Great Falls, Virginia

CPSC ATTENDEES: Allyson Tenney

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: Harrison Murphy, Ventex, Inc.
Kathy Dorrity, Ventex, Inc.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

CPSC staff met with Harrison Murphy of Ventex, Inc., to discuss mattress flammability issues, available test data, and Ventex, Inc. fire barrier products.

Ventex fire barrier products contain Kevlar fibers and are designed to reduce the hazards associated with open flame ignition fires of mattresses and upholstered furniture. The barriers do not contain fiberglass or fire retardant chemicals. Ventex products are currently used for furniture and mattress applications built to meet specific flammability requirements.

The barriers are claimed to be suitable for typical residential mattress constructions while not sacrificing comfort or design choices. Ventex has been testing various mattress designs constructed with their fire barrier products since 1995. Based on their testing, Ventex supports the use of barrier fabrics to improve mattress flammability. Their experience has shown that barriers offer flexibility in design, consistency in testing, and long term durability.

Results of previously conducted flammability tests were presented and discussed, including risk factors based on mattress geometry, such as thickness, vertical surface area, border heights, and the space between the mattress and foundation.

A discussion of CPSC's rulemaking procedures followed. Ventex supports a mandatory requirement for mattress flammability. Concerns regarding a mandatory standard include setting pass/fail criteria, enforcement issues and consequences, how to address production variability, and the development of an effective screening test.

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

No Mfrs/PrvtLblrs or
Products Identified ✓

✓ Excepted by RTP

✓ Firms Notified, 2/24/03
Comments Processed.